

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In addition, Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by International Publication under the Patent Cooperation Treaty to Tang, et al.¹ ("Tang").

Claims 1-16 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. New claims 17-20 have been added. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Applicant believes that this response addresses the Examiner's rejection and any changes do not introduce new matter into the specification, limit the scope of the claims or result in any prosecution history estoppel.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 5-8 have been amended. Amended claim 5 includes a "memory device." Amended claims 6-8 depend from claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

According to the Office Action, Tang anticipates the claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 because it teaches:

"Decoding (decompressing logic included in the FIFO memory, paragraph [0028]) the multiple memory addresses to produce an output that is the same for each of the multiple memory addresses (burst operations transfer data from multiple memory locations concurrently allowing for equating output lines, paragraph [0024])."

Applicant disagrees. Amended claim 1 is representative. Amended claim 1 includes: "decoding each of the multiple addresses to produce a decoded address." Tang, however, discloses:

¹ International Publication Number WO 03/050684 A1.

"The FIFO memory 100 may include *data compression/decompression* logic on its *input* and *output* respectively to provide additional overflow protection."² (emphasis added.)

First, even it is assumed that "decompression" is equivalent to "decoding," Tang clearly fails to teach decompressing *addresses*, as the Tang publication only discloses decompressing *data*.

Further, Tang clearly discloses that the decompression logic may be on the *output* of the memory. Tang does not disclose or suggest that decompression logic may be on the *input* to the memory. Thus, Tang fails to disclose "decoding" anything - data or addresses - that is received. In contrast, amended claim 1 provides for "*receiving . . . requests to access a memory, the . . . requests specifying multiple . . . addresses.*"

Moreover, applicant disputes that one of ordinary skill in the art would equate the data decompression disclosed in Tang with the address decoding disclosed in the present application. One of ordinary skill would understand that data decompression is applied to data that has been previously compressed, and would, accordingly, understand that data decompression is inapplicable to data that has not been previously compressed. Moreover, one of ordinary skill would not understand addresses specified by a processor as something that has been previously compressed. The present specification is instructive: "The decoder 44, which may be implemented with combinational logic, asserts the READ signal 42 *whenever the address is within a predetermined range of addresses.*"³ Because a particular address is a member of predetermined set of addresses does not make it inherent that such address was previously coded.

Accordingly, Tang does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. Amended claims 2-4 and new claim 17 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by Tang for the same reason that claim 1 is not anticipated.

As mentioned, claim 1 is illustrative. Just as Tang does not disclose each and every element of claim 1, it fails to disclose each and every element of the independent claims 5, 9, and 13. In addition, amended claims 6-8 and new claims 18-19 depend from

² Tang, paragraph [0028].

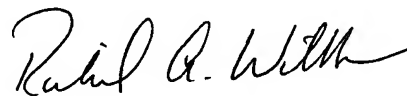
³ Specification, paragraph [0025].

claim 5 and are not anticipated for the same reason the claim 5 is not anticipated; amended claims 10-12 and new claim 20 depend from claim 9 and are not anticipated for the same reason the claim 9 is not anticipated; amended claims 14-16 depend from claim 13 and are not anticipated for the same reason the claim 13 is not anticipated.

Conclusion

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1-20 be allowed, and this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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